



## WIRELESS EBT PROJECT November 2020 Newsletter



### From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	15	400	415	\$1,620.35	\$19,522.33	\$21,142.68
February	9	488	497	\$631.91	\$16,894.08	\$17,525.99
March	19	338	357	\$2,085.27	\$15,822.26	\$17,907.53
April	13	2,767	2,780	\$1,243.32	\$184,944.79	\$186,188.11
May	66	10,304	10,370	\$2,839.64	\$560,305.52	\$563,145.16
June	117	5,185	5,302	\$2,063.27	\$162,385.58	\$164,448.85
July	381	5,810	6,191	\$5,579.07	\$125,221.23	\$130,800.30
August	811	5,939	6,750	\$13,971.89	\$128,228.25	\$142,200.14
September	504	7,113	7,617	\$11,099.79	\$201,777.02	\$212,876.81
October	276	6,362	6,638	\$4,814.24	\$195,792.00	\$200,606.24
Total for Year	2,211	44,706	46,917	\$45,948.75	\$1,610,893.06	\$1,656,841.81

All I can say is WOW! The total sales for 2020 are the highest ever in the history of The Wireless EBT Project. The Wireless EBT Project rolled out back in 2005. What is truly amazing about this is what a year 2020 has been with farmers markets starting later than usual, some markets not even opening, trying virtual markets for the first time and the fear of shopping because of the virus. I have been so impressed by the way that you found a way to sell your products to the people that really needed them. I am so proud of this project and each one of you. It is truly a joy to work with all of you!

#### October 2020 Facts:

Total sales for October this year were lower than October 2019 (\$200,606.24 compared to \$229,073.63). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2020 than in 2019 (276 compared to 319). For October 2020, there were a total of 6,638 wireless transactions compared to 9,385 in 2019.

In October 2020, there were 153,413 Food Assistance/EBT families in Iowa. \$56,053,255 in benefits were issued in October to these families.

## Closing down machines for the winter

If we have closed down your wireless machine for the winter months, please make sure to keep your battery intact in your machine. Make sure to store your machine/equipment some place warm and safe during the winter months.

## USDA reauthorization

Just a reminder that you have to reauthorize every 5 years with the USDA to accept EBT. If you receive a reauthorization letter from the USDA, please complete and return it promptly. If you don't complete the paperwork timely, you will lose your EBT authorization and will have to reapply and complete the application to come back into the program.

We have had several farmers lose their EBT authorization because they did not return the required paperwork back to the USDA.

Just a reminder that you have to be authorized by the USDA to accept EBT to participate in The Wireless EBT Project.

## Update information with the USDA

Just a reminder that it is extremely important to report any changes to the USDA. The USDA is who authorized you to accept EBT. If you have a name change or an address change it needs to be reported so that your authorization is up to date. If you have a change, please call 312-353-6609 to report the change.

## Changes to your contact information?

It is very important that DHS has your current email address and your correct phone numbers. I send out a lot of important information and if DHS does not have your current information you could be missing out on important information. Please make sure that if you change your email address or you drop or pick up a new phone number that you share that information with me.

## Paper for your wireless machine

Just a reminder that DHS supplies the paper rolls for your wireless machines. It is imperative that you use thermal paper or it could ruin your machine. Please do not use any other type of paper in your wireless machine other than the paper that DHS supplies. If you are running low on paper, please contact Jan at 515-971-1076.

## Reminders:

1. Remember that you cannot ring up a sale for another vendor. You could lose your Food Assistance (EBT) certification and be terminated from the Wireless EBT Project.
2. Since you are paying for the commercial transaction fees, be sure to keep track of what you are paying so you can use those expenses as a tax deduction.
3. You cannot set a minimum purchase amount. If an EBT household wishes to purchase \$.50 in onions, you do need to process the transaction. Same for any debit or credit transactions.
4. Hot foods and hot drinks (cocoa, coffee, and tea) cannot be purchased with SNAP EBT benefits.
5. If you experience technical issues with your PAX A920 machine, please call GoEBT at 1-877-418-7957. If you can't get the problem solved, please call Tracy.

## Help Desk

**We are here to help you!**

**When you have questions about:**

- **Participating in the Wireless EBT Project? Call Tracy Penick at 515-281-4935.**
- **What you can sell to EBT customers, or being authorized to accept EBT? Call USDA/FNS at 877-823-4369.**
- **Food Assistance eligibility? Call Kari Lind at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Jan Walters at 515-971-1076.**